



GOOD REASONS TO CLEAN

2005 CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES

HUMAN SERVICES PRESENTS THE 6TH ANNUAL CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES to be held Thursday - Saturday, June 2 - 4. Watch for details in the April Briefing. For more information, call Creekside Community Center at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

SPRING 2005 CURBSIDE CLEANUP

COLLECTION DATES

Location	Regular trash day is:	2005 Curbside pickup is Saturday:
West of Normandale	Friday	April 16
France to Normandale	Thursday	April 23
Penn to France	Wednesday	April 30
Portland to Penn	Tuesday	May 7
East of Portland	Monday	May 21



THE MORE YOU KNOW

ENERGY SAVINGS TIP

UNPLUG APPLIANCES AND ALSO SAVE MONEY

MARY WONDERED WHY A TENANT’S ELECTRIC BILL WAS so much less than her other tenants’ bills. She discovered the energy-saving tenants were unplugging many appliances when they were out of town. Why the savings? Doesn’t off mean off? Even when you turn off electric appliances, they use energy. Many remain on standby mode and leak power. The chart to the right shows the typical savings you could get per year by simply unplugging an appliance when it’s not in use.

Cost is calculated at a rate of 10¢ per kilowatt:

Electrical device	Yearly cost
27-inch color TV	\$11.44
VCR	11.40
Microwave	2.40
Cordless telephone	3.60
Rechargeable flashlight	9.30
Computer modem	3.60

Source: *In Balance*, newsletter published by the Center for a New American Dream.

SAVE A TREE
RECYCLE YOUR PAPER

THANKS TO INNOVATIVE technology, more of your paper products can be recycled. Each year, Minnesotans recycle 800,000 tons of paper, but another 750,000 tons of recyclable paper is thrown in the trash. Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 380 gallons of oil and enough energy to heat a home for six months.

PLANT A TREE IN YOUR YARD
CITY TREE SALE THIS SPRING

EACH YEAR, THE CITY PLANTS TREES IN PARKS and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington’s urban forest continues to be a community treasure. In 2004, 1,850 diseased elm and oak trees, many located on residential properties, were marked for removal. To increase the number of trees on private properties, Park Maintenance will hold a public tree sale this spring.

Do recycle magazines, junk mail, envelopes, catalogs, office paper, newspapers, cereal and other dry food boxes, phone books and corrugated cardboard.

Do not recycle freezer or refrigerator boxes, pizza boxes, egg cartons, paper towels or tissue products, paper cups, plates or napkins.

Approximately 300 trees will be for sale. Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To purchase a tree, fill out and mail the form below, along with a check payable to “City of Bloomington.” To download a form, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Tree sale.



TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. Bare root trees – one and a quarter inch to two inches in diameter.

Name _____ Phone _____

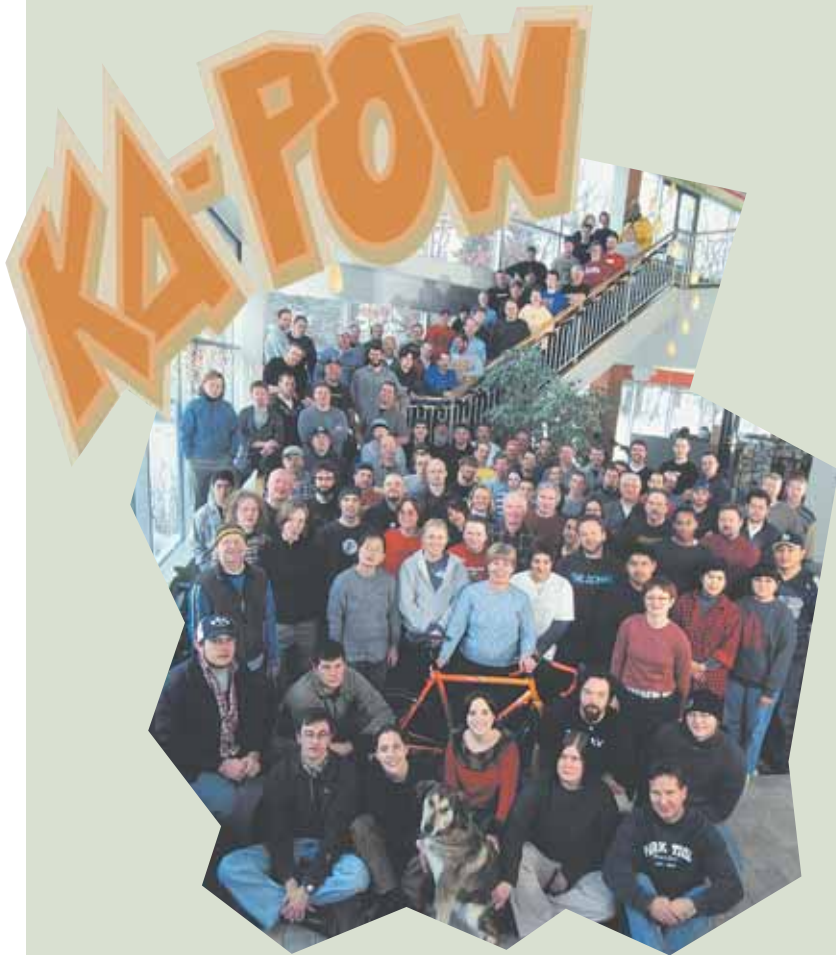
Address _____

Fill in the number of each tree type desired.
Maximum 5 trees total per household, \$50 each.
Check must accompany order.

___ Autumn Blaze Maple ___ Hackberry
___ Northwoods Rubrum (Red) Maple
Total trees ___ X \$50 ea. = _____ Total cost

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - noon.
Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road,
Bloomington MN 55431-3027.

Earth Action Heroes protect the planet. Whether it’s saving energy or guarding Bloomington’s precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...



EARTH ACTION HEROES
RE: CYCLERS

TRAFFIC CONGESTION. HONK IF YOU DON’T LIKE IT. BUILDING MORE roads and improving infrastructure may be one solution, but it’s expensive. The cost is also personal because air pollution and stress from increased traffic can affect your health. However, there’s another alternative – decreasing the demand. That is, getting more vehicles off the road. When it comes to being part of the solution, one Bloomington-based company really gets in gear.

Quality Bicycle Products (QBP) believes in alternatives to driving solo. As the world’s largest independent distributor of bicycle products, their business is promoting bicycle use and they make it easy for their employees to bike to work.

The company provides incentives including extra pay, indoor bicycle storage, repair facilities, showers, lockers and catering lunch several times per week to reduce the need to travel. At peak production, 270 employees work at QBP and, typically, almost half of the office participate in regular bike-to-work days.

“We work hard at nurturing a bike culture,” said QBP’s Bicycle Industry Advocate Gary Sjoquist. “We take our role as a corporate citizen seriously and want to set an example in our industry and in our community. That’s why we started the Bike-to-Work Program.”

Recognized by the City Council and I-494 Commuter Services for exemplary efforts in combating congestion, QBP received the Metro Commuter Services Commuter Choice Award. Most recently, the company was designated as one of the “Best Workplaces for Commuters” by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Realizing that bicycle commuting is not an option for everyone, QBP encourages employees to use mass transit or carpool. The company assists employees in identifying commuting options by hosting on-site commuter fairs and displaying commuting options in the lunchroom. As the company parking lot grows due to expansion, GBP will also implement preferential parking spaces for carpoolers.

The next time you’re sitting in traffic, think about what you can do to improve your health, protect the environment and save money. Is it time for a bike tune-up? QBP will donate and deliver an outdoor bicycle rack to any company in the Twin Cities willing to use Commuter Services to expand commuting options. For more information on commuting options, visit www.metrocommuterservices.org/index.asp.

